Rural Electrification in Himachal Pradesh

2200. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana under the Rural Electrification Programme recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the broad objectives of this Yojana;

(c) the funds allocated to Himachal Pradesh under the Yojana;

(d) whether village Panchayats are also to be involved in implementing the Yojana to achieve the desired goal; and

(e) if so, the number of rural population below poverty line targeted to provide electricity under this scheme in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) was launched by Government in April, 2005.

(b) RGGVY envisages electrification of all villages and provide access to electricity to all rural households through creation of:

(i) Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with at least one 33/11 KV (or 66/11 KV) sub-station in each block.

(ii) Village Electrification Infrastructure (VEI) with at least one distribution transformer in each village/habitation.

(iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) Systems on conventional sources where grid supply is not feasible or cost-effect and which is not being covered by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

(iv) Free connections are provided to the BPL families.

90% capital subsidy is provided under RGGVY for creation of such infrastructure. To ensure revenue sustainability, deployment of franchisee is mandatory in the management of rural distribution.

(c) Funds under RGGVY are disbursed in instalments commensurating with the progress reported by the implementing agencies in award and execution of sanctioned projects.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) As per Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for 12 districts received from Himachal Pradesh, 12483 Below Poverty Line (BPL) households are targeted for electrification under RGGVY.

Power transmission in project

2201. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation proposes to launch a critical power transmission project connecting the North-east with the rest of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far will this project help power-starved regions to get additional power to control power-cuts, especially in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) have planned a scheme for evacuation and transmission of power to be generated in the new power projects in the North-East Region, Sikkim and Bhutan to the States in the Northern and Western Regions. The scheme envisages a ± 800 kV HVDC bipole of 6000 MW capacity.

(c) The States of Northern and Western Regions, including Delhi, would be the beneficiaries of this Transmission Project.

Status of Mega Power Projects

2202. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of various Mega Power Projects announced;

(b) whether the reports that a foreign partner has withdrawn from the Sasan Mega Power Project is correct; and

(c) if so, the reasons for withdrawal and whether it will have any impact on this important aspect of India's infrastructure building efforts?